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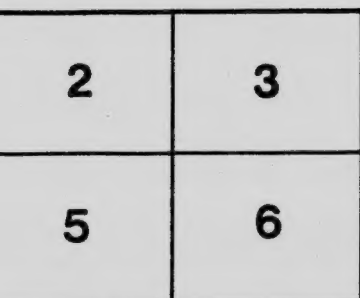
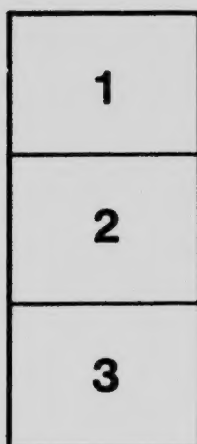
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Ontario Department of Agriculture

CIRCULAR No. 8

BACKYARD PIG FEEDING

Is Practicable and Profitable in Cities, Towns
and Villages

BY

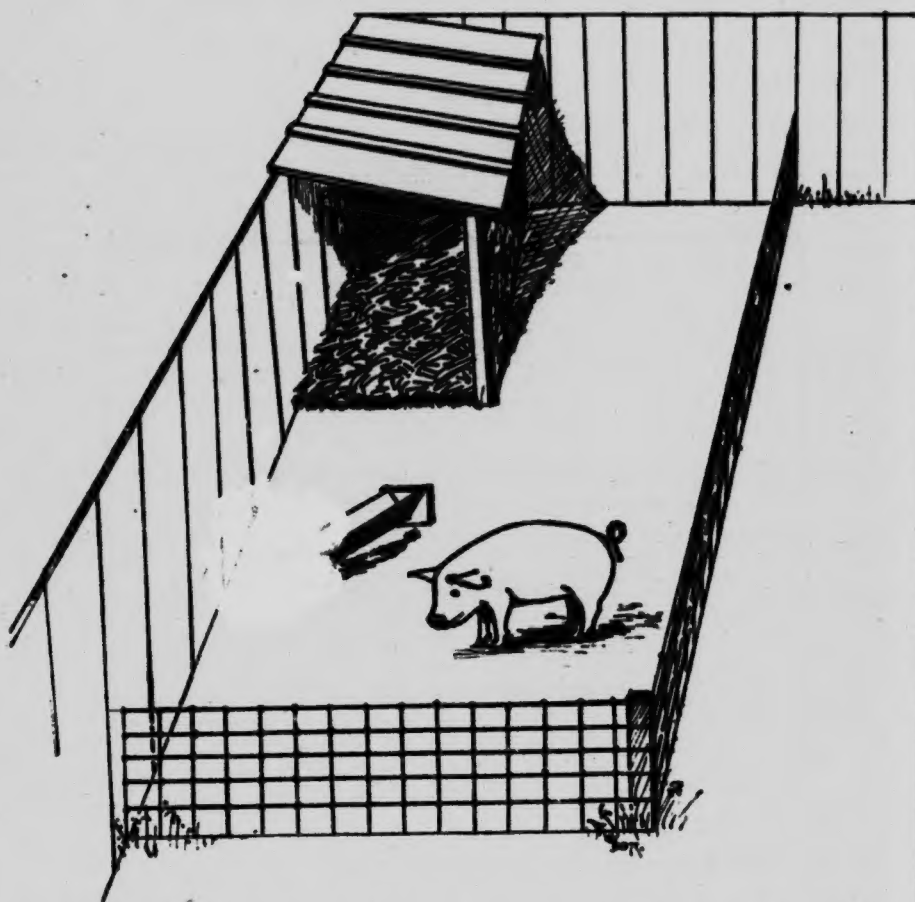
H. M. KING, B.S.A., Associate Professor of Animal Husbandry
Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ontario

FEED A PIG BECAUSE

1. HOGS MULTIPLY RAPIDLY AND MATURE QUICKLY, SO THAT THEY OFFER THE QUICKEST MEANS OF INCREASING THE ARMIES' SUPPLY OF MEAT.
2. HOGS PRODUCE MORE MEAT FROM A GIVEN AMOUNT OF FEED THAN ANY OTHER DOMESTIC ANIMAL.
3. HOGS GIVE A GREATER WEIGHT OF DRESSED CARCASS IN PROPORTION TO LIVE WEIGHT THAN ANY OTHER ANIMAL.
4. THE CARCASS OF THE HOG CONTAINS MORE EDIBLE MEAT IN PROPORTION TO BONE THAN THAT OF ANY OTHER ANIMAL.
5. PORK AND BACON CONTAIN A LARGE PROPORTION OF EDIBLE FAT WHICH IS VITALLY NEEDED IN THE RATIONS OF SOLDIERS.
6. BACON IS THE MOST COMPACT FORM IN WHICH MEAT CAN BE SHIPPED ABROAD.
7. ONE OR TWO PIGS CAN BE KEPT IN THE BACKYARDS OF THOUSANDS OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS WITH PROFIT.

TORONTO, ONTARIO, MARCH, 1918

**"The Pen is mightier than the sword"—
especially if there is a Pig in it.**



A very cheap and serviceable type of pen and shelter which can be built in almost any backyard. Shelter is provided from sun and rain and if on high ground no floor is required.

BACKYARD PIG FEEDING IS PRACTICABLE AND PROFITABLE

H. M. KING, O.A.C., GUELPH.

The hog plays a most important part in rationing our armies and those of our Allies. No other animal can so quickly and economically produce the meat and fat in which our European Allies are so woefully short. Eventual success of our armies depend, in no insignificant degree, upon the ability of Canadians to raise hogs—and more hogs.

In this important work residents of villages, towns and cities can give most helpful assistance. Nor need the work be unpleasant. "As dirty as a pig," is an old saying which maligns the hog. If given a chance to be clean, the pig is among the most cleanly of domesticated animals. With reasonably good management, the hog is neither unsanitary nor offensive when fed in the backyard of an urban dwelling; while the table refuse, otherwise wasted, may be profitably utilized by him. The householder, in short, who in this year of trial feeds a pig, at once performs a most urgent patriotic service and utilizes spare moments and table refuse very profitably for himself.

THE LIT THAT PAYS.—Weanling pigs, at from six to eight weeks of age, weigh in the neighborhood of thirty pounds. If males, they should be castrated either before or shortly after weaning. Young sow pigs will make as economical gains as the barrows. Generally speaking, pigs that are fairly long, deep, with rather short, broad heads, fairly strong bone, and an abundant coat of silky hair, make the best use of the feed supplied, and consequently will make the most economical gains.

HOW TO FEED THE PIG.—It is necessary to supply growing pigs with foods which are concentrated in character, that is, containing not too much fibre and bulk. Young pigs are generally weaned onto skim milk, so that when this food is not available, we must try to replace it as best we can. At the outset, then, some shorts or middlings should be available. They are relished by the pigs, and may be fed to a certain extent right through to fattening time. Tankage, which can also be purchased at the feed store, can be fed with profit. It helps to take the place of the skim milk. It should be fed sparingly at first, forming two or three per cent. of the meal ration, and this may be increased to ten per cent. as the hog grows and becomes accustomed to it. Coming in a dry powder form it is conveniently mixed with the grain before feeding.

As the pig gains in weight and reaches about three months or so in age, it will be necessary to supply some heavier grain. Ground barley, gradually added, is excellent, while a little oat chop may be fed. Finely ground screenings can be fairly cheaply obtained and may form part of the ration, supplemented with ground barley or oats to keep the feed from becoming too close in texture. In feeding meal to pigs, feed just what they will nicely clean up and no more. The most economical gains are made when the pig is kept just slightly below his limit and at no time overstepping it. If water is supplied constantly, the meal should not be made too sloppy. If the meal is dampened there will be less waste than if fed dry.

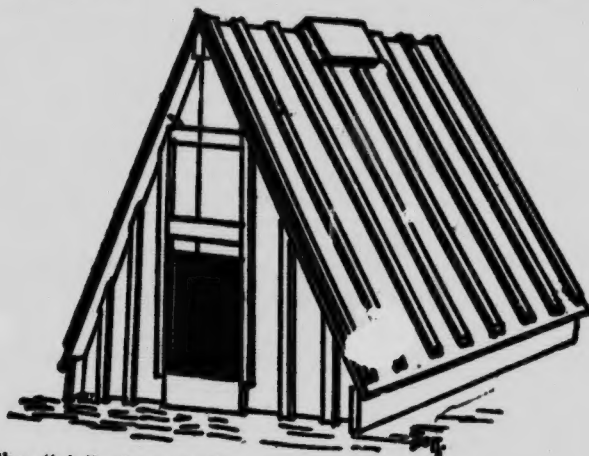
Experiment shows that it takes, on the average, about four or four and one-half pounds of meal, fed to pigs confined in pens, to produce a pound of gain. If, then, it is going to take about one hundred and fifty pounds of gain to make a pig ready for market, some idea can be formed as to the amount of feed it will be necessary to buy. Of course anything fed which acts as a supplement to the grain will lessen the amount of grain necessary.

FEED THE HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE.—The hog is the most economical consumer of by-products. Much of the garbage will be relished by him, but care must be taken to keep broken dishes and glass out of the garbage can, and not to feed

anything that will tend to cause poisoning, such as soapy dish water, etc. Dish water which contains no chemical or soap has some food value for pigs. Assuming that a small yard is supplied the pig for exercise, care must be taken not to sour the ground by feeding the garbage always in one place, and allowing it to become stagnant. Garden refuse should find a place in the ration of every pig kept in the back yard. The weeds that are pulled out, the plants that are hoed out when thinning, the tops that are cut off, etc., if thrown into the yard supply the green food which is necessary to keep the pig in a thrifty condition. The grass that is mowed from the lawn will be relished, particularly if the pig's yard is small, and what he does not eat will, when dried, make a fairly satisfactory bed for him to lie on. Ordinarily it will not be found practicable to cook the garbage. Materials such as potato peelings are much more valuable for pigs when cooked, and if they can be cooked they should be fed along with the meal ration.

VERMIN LOWER PROFITS.—Lice tend to weaken the vitality of pigs, and render them more susceptible to disease. Two parts of creolin to one hundred parts of water make a good dip for lice. Crude petroleum is also effective. One application is seldom sufficient, and a little applied from time to time will do no harm.

PIGS ENJOY MUD BATH.—Pigs perspire very little, and suffer from heat; consequently they enjoy wallowing in water or mud. In very hot weather an improvised mud bath in a shady spot adds to the comfort of the pig, and cheapens the cost of production.



The "A" shaped Hog House—the cheapest kind of permanent pen that can be built.

A CHEAP, BUT EFFICIENT HOUSE.—During the warmer months of the year warm houses are not required for growing pigs. About all that is necessary is shelter from the hot sun and wind, and a dry bed. If the yard is surrounded by a tight board fence, a cheap and satisfactory form of shelter can be made by adopting some such plan as shown in the illustration. The board fence forms shelter on two sides, and the roof, which can be made of rough lumber, supplemented with battens, and given a slight pitch, forms shelter from the sun and rain. If the location is high, and natural drainage is good, it will not hurt the pigs if no floor is supplied. In very damp weather, or if the location is not very high, a few boards or planks will keep the pigs' sleeping quarters elevated and dry, and will help to prevent rheumatism and crippling. If no litter is available, a bale of shavings will be sufficient to keep the quarters comfortable for some time.

If a more permanent type of house is deemed advisable, the "A" shaped pen, as shown, might be used. The size can be varied with the number of pigs kept. The cost of materials for these houses is less than for the other kinds.

CURING OF PORK.—If interested, write The Department of Agriculture, Toronto, for Bulletin No. 225.

